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## JOHN LEIGHTON

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# JOHN ELLIOTT LEIGHTON, ESQ.

"A passion for people hurt by medical mistakes"  
Medical Malpractice Trial Attorney

> When it comes to health care, John Leighton is passionate. "Patients get treated like second class citizens." Leighton has seen so many cases of medical mistakes, so little regulation, and so many restrictions on patients' rights, that it drives him harder than ever to represent victims of medical malpractice.

Leighton, an accomplished board certified trial lawyer, handles malpractice cases throughout Florida but his reputation spans beyond the state, having been hired by families in Texas and Illinois to try malpractice cases there as well. In one, a hospital failed to promptly treat a woman who had a fluid build-up in her brain, causing her death. Leighton handled the case in Chicago and recovered \$4.3 million for her family. In Texas he obtained \$1 million for the victim of a botched weight loss surgery. Another of his Central Florida clients had a wrong leg surgery by a surgeon who had just made the same mistake on another patient a year earlier.

In a record-setting case here, Leighton represented an Altamonte Springs girl who sustained brain damage at birth from a botched delivery. After years of delays and numerous appeals, Leighton convinced a Sanford jury to award \$24 million in what was the largest malpractice verdict in Seminole county history. Recently he recovered \$9 million for a woman who suffered brain damage from an anesthesia mistake and two years ago he won a \$24 million wrongful death verdict in Orange County.

Leighton is most concerned by studies which show that medical errors are killing 200,000 to 400,000 people a year in America. To demonstrate the point, he recently published an article about why people are safer on a highway filled with drunk drivers than in a hospital.

15 years ago Leighton and a dozen of the nation's top medical malpractice lawyers formed the Cooperative Association of Medical Malpractice Attorneys. Leighton is the author of a 2 volume text and has written numerous book chapters and articles. He has lectured in over a dozen states, including, The Association of Trial Lawyers of America's "Litigating Catastrophically Injured Infant Cases" and "Holding the Hospital Accountable" seminars. He recently spoke to a different group – an association of health underwriters. His topic: "Medical Malpractice - What You Don't Know May Kill You."

Leighton has been selected for Florida SuperLawyers (6 years as a top 100 SuperLawyer in Florida), Florida Trend magazine's "Florida Legal Elite" and The Best Lawyers in America. He serves as the Chairman of the Academy of Trial Advocacy, a national invitation-only association of some of the nation's leading catastrophic injury lawyers, and is on the Executive Committee of the National College of Advocacy. He received his law and undergraduate degrees with honors from the University of Florida. When he is not fighting for victims of medical mistakes, he tries to find time to ski, bike and enjoy classic cars. <



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